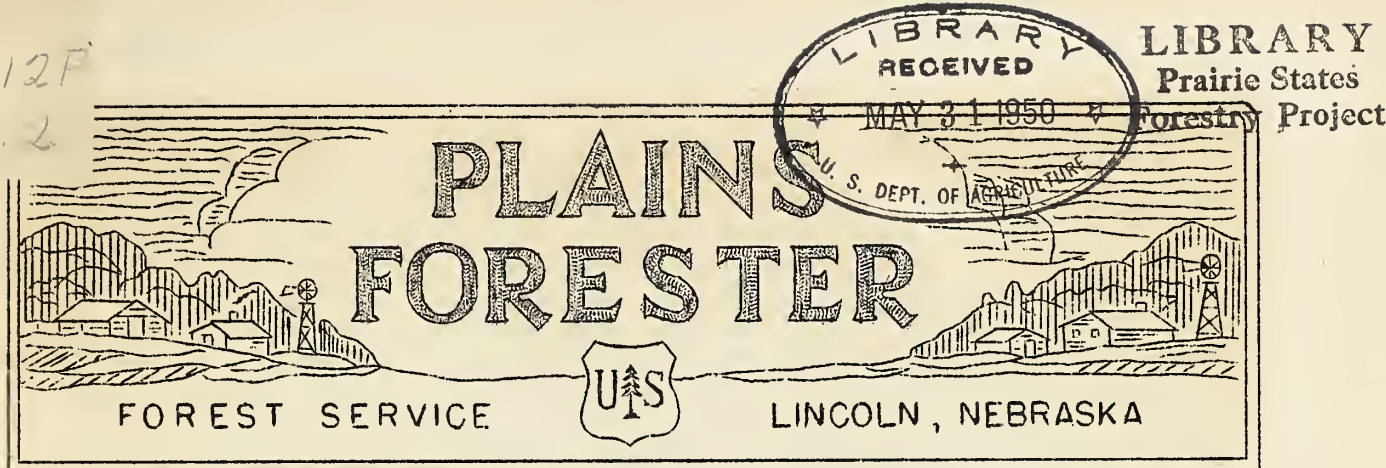


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SHELTERBELTS IN ONTARIO

- By H. E. Engstrom, R. O.

A recent circular entitled "Windbreaks and Shelterbelts," Circular No. 11, distributed by the Forestry Branch of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, Toronto, Canada, has a familiar ring. In fact, in many respects it reads very much like an address that might have been prepared by a District Officer of one of our northern States for delivery to a group of farmers at a negotiation meeting. The benefits of shelterbelts and windbreaks as recognized by the Canadians differ very little from the values stressed by us. Winter protection afforded by tree belts is strongly emphasized, perhaps more so than by us, but this is to be expected under their climatic conditions. All the other values that we play up, such as protection of field crops, livestock and orchards, stabilizing drifting soil, haven for wildlife, aesthetic and social values, are similarly stressed by our northern friends.

Of interest is the differentiation drawn between windbreaks and shelterbelts. This circular classes a windbreak as one or sometimes two rows of trees. Where more than two rows are used it may be considered a shelterbelt.

The Canadians stress the importance of conifers in their plantings. This perhaps ties in again with their climatic conditions since their winters are long and plantings composed of deciduous species are less effective for winter protection than plantings made up of conifers. Although closely spaced, single-row plantings of conifers are recognized as effective windbreaks, two or more rows are regarded as preferable.

This circular is another link in the chain of evidence that the benefits of shelterbelts are universally recognized. Apparently the only differences of opinion now existing with regard to shelterbelts are associated with the establishment of technical standards governing their planting. Spacing, arrangement and choice of species, width of belt, location, etc., are still debatable points. However, to foresters, this makes the shelterbelt planting job all the more interesting and regardless of how desirable it may be, the day when agreement is reached that a given set of technical rules will fit a given set of planting conditions, planting shelterbelts will undoubtedly have lost much of its appeal for the man on the job.

CONSIDER THE OUTER ROW

The selection of species for planting in row 10 of our present 10-row basic belts or the corresponding outer row on a belt of fewer rows perhaps should receive more consideration than it has, from the standpoint of longevity, coppicing and moisture-sapping tendencies. This row is invariably on the field side of the belt and is adjacent to two, three, or four rows of temporary fast-growing species--trees expected to die out of the plantings first. It seems evident then that the final row on the field side should also be a species of a relatively short life or one which can be cut for post purposes. However, since it should also be a species which does not tend to reestablish itself by coppicing, thereby causing trouble when the farmer attempts to restore these acres to crops following the death of the faster-growing portion of his shelterbelt, most post species will have to be eliminated.

Chinese elm, when suited to the site, is from this standpoint very desirable. Plum and Russian Olive are not objectionable. Mulberry is of questionable desirability, and Osage, so commonly used, may be considered undesirable in that it is relatively long-lived, has a definite tendency to coppice severely, and is notorious among farmers for its moisture-sapping proclivities. Why would Honeylocust not be more desirable? Longevity, coppicing tendencies, and moisture-sapping characteristics certainly deserve serious consideration when choice of species for this row is to be made.

- Donald P. Duncan, Kans.

Note: This is probably true in the western edge of our planting area, where the regeneration of species cannot be anticipated. - Ralph V. Johnston, Kans.

NORTH DAKOTA TREE BOUNTY LAW HELD CONSTITUTIONAL

In a decision just recently rendered by Judge G. Grimson of the District Court, the N. D. Tree Bounty Law was, in so many words, declared to be valid, constitutional, and extra-legal.

This law, originally passed by the Legislature in 1937, provides that farmers who plant trees, or have shelterbelts planted for them by the U. S. Forest Service, are entitled to a rebate on taxes, and counties of the state will have to return tree bounties to taxpayers.

According to the provisions of the Act, anyone who "shall plant or have planted trees and who shall cultivate and keep in growing, thrifty condition one acre and not more than 10 acres, is entitled to receive the bounty or rebate." The scale for payment is \$4.00 per acre the first year and \$2.00 per acre for four more years.

Since the passing of this law, several counties had refused to pay all tree bounties, and while some county officials allowed rebates to individuals who planted trees, they still refused to allow the reduction of \$4.00 per acre for land planted to trees by the U. S. Forest Service. Now Judge Grimson decrees that individual farmers and shelterbelt cooperators alike are entitled to tree bounty payments by counties.

But Judges do not usually just up and declare a law constitutional or unconstitutional. There must first be court action in the form of a test case,

instituted by an interested person or persons. To B. E. Groom, of the Greater North Dakota Association; D. F. McLeod, of Cando; and a group of farmers who employed Attorney L. B. Stevens, of Cando, go the laurels for securing a legal construction of the law involved.

Incidentally, the test case held here in Cando on July 6 was based on one of our Towner County belts, a 1939 planting belonging to R. N. Campbell. During the course of the trial (being that the trees could not literally "speak for themselves") my right-hand man, C. D. Schneider, and the planting foreman, Roy Tolle, were called to the witness stand and duly described the planting operation, the care and condition of the belt, and the survival and replant job.

They were also asked whether, in their opinion, the trees would benefit the entire community or only the individual. Being tried and true shelter-belters, they swore in favor of the entire community. The question of constitutionality hinged about this point, and after the case had been in Judge Grimson's hands not more than a week, he decided in favor of the community benefits.

Just how this will affect our shelterbelt program is hard to foretell at present. I believe the AAA cultivation payments have shown our cooperators that they must properly care for their trees if they are to receive the payments. If administered well, this Tree Bounty Law should both encourage more farmers to plant trees and, after they are planted, take the proper care of them.

- Victor C. Anderson, N. Dak.

(Editors note: In commenting on this article, L. A. Williams, of the North Dakota State office, says: "While we appreciate the constitutionality of this law will help our program, at the same time we must realize the fact that the State of North Dakota cannot afford to pay the tree bounty, and probably the next session of the legislature will either amend or repeal the law so the Forest Service plantings will no longer be eligible for bounty payments.")

WANTED: BULLETIN ON PRAIRIE FORESTRY

We are all familiar with those compact, valuable little bulletins put out by the Department of Agriculture and usually distributed by the Extension Forester on "Trees of Texas," "Trees of North Carolina," or trees of most any State in the Union.

I remember, as a boy, the extension forester put out these in my local community and later some of us competed at the state college in tree identification contests as a result of interest created by the bulletins.

Most of the bulletins I have seen are not adapted to plains country but rather to timber country, and do not cover all the species used in prairie forestry work.

It is my belief that a bulletin on shelterbelt species similar to the ones referred to would be widely appreciated, not only by local agriculture teachers, students, and cooperators, but also by technical foresters both in

the shelterbelt area and elsewhere.

Not only would the bulletin furnish valuable information, but if prepared by the Prairie States Forestry Project, which is the logical agency to do the job, it would go a long way toward establishing us as the authority on prairie forestry.

- Thomas C. Croker, Jr., Tex.

(Comment - Croker's idea is an excellent one, and we started in sometime ago to put it into effect. We employed M. B. Jenkins, of the University of Nebraska, during a slack period in his work to start compiling the necessary data and writing the species descriptions, but when he had to drop the job and return to his own duties, we were unable to carry it on. It is hoped that we can get at it again in time and eventually turn out such a bulletin, if only in mimeographed form. - E.L.P.)

PUT ON YOUR "MUST DO" LIST

How has the successful job of planting trees been accomplished?

Preceding articles in PLAINS FORESTER have indicated almost every available method with the exception of Motor Equipment which, in my opinion, has been one of the major factors in the accomplishment of our program.

Really, it is hard to believe that this could be true with the many different phases of our work which require our constant attention, but I believe you can readily see that had it not been for motor equipment, we would have been unable to carry out any extensive program of operation. While we do not say that motor equipment alone is the determining factor of our accomplishments, it can easily be seen that it is one phase of our program which should receive ever-current consideration.

A complete analysis will no doubt show that only slight thought has been given to the placing of motor equipment in a position whereby it will receive its due consideration. With regard to this thought, we would like to present the question as to just how many of you include in your monthly work plan the personal supervision of maintenance of motor equipment.

The future accomplishments of our Project, as in the past, depend largely upon usage of motor equipment. We might extend this statement even further by saying that future accomplishments depend more so on motor equipment than in the past, because of the fact that our program is now distributed over a much larger territory, and this enlarged theater of operations in turn naturally requires additional miles of travel.

Under the present setup, we will apparently be unable to procure any equipment. Therefore, with regard to the increased mileage necessary to execute our program, it is highly important that each and everyone take a more personal as well as official interest in the care and maintenance of our motorized units.

- Carroll C. Deal, Okla.

Chaperone your cigarettes; don't let them go out alone.

-Clipped from "Indian Smoke Signals"

DISTRICT OFFICE PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC

If the people of Hutchinson, Kansas, don't know there is a Forest Service District Office located in the new \$300,000 Federal Building recently constructed there, it will be because they had their eyes closed when the second open house and dedication services were held September 10. It was estimated that during these two open house sessions several thousand persons attended.

With the blare of bugles, municipal band, city choir, and speakers platform directly below our office windows and the loud speakers just above, we had no trouble imagining we were being serenaded.

Our attention was diverted only once from the ceremony when someone noticed the profound look of disappointment on District Officer Karl "Little Boy" Ziegler's face when he was informed that no refreshments would be served.

- Lloyd Houston, Kans.

MAYBE IT WAS HUNGRY

A few days ago, I watched a Richardson ground squirrel dining on heads of wheat. He would reach as high as he could with his front paws and then pull the stalk of wheat down hand over hand until he reached the wheat head, which he consumed. He was so fast and clever that I took my watch out and timed him, and discovered that he ate or destroyed ten heads of wheat in about nine minutes.

I'm offering this merely as an observation. It's not to be construed as any sort of record, since South Dakota first would come out with a better record and then some other State would come out with a record to beat South Dakota's.

North Dakota's ground squirrels are just ordinary ground squirrels and are not to be compared with our superior brand of jack rabbits, of which there is no peer; however, my observations do show that the ground squirrel does consume a lot of grain.

- Auburn S. Coe, N. Dak.

SHELTERBELTS PROVIDE HIGH CLASS PROTECTION

Now and again we run across a new idea in protection. Recently when checking through the Shelterbelt Survey Form, 225-PSFP, the following notation under "Recommended Repair" was read with considerable interest:

If belt should be continued, which would be no use as land is blown away, all except south $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of west belt. Rest of land has been turned back to pasture land and oil wells have been drilled and roads made. Mr. _____ said he could not get boys to cultivate like he wanted them to. There are something like 100 oil wells and 2 Carbon Black Plants on this Sec. now. Recommend inactive now.

If we could get a bucket of oil from each of the producing wells and sell it, -- use the money for cultivation, -- we should have a fine belt. -- Yes, IF!

- Hy Goldberg, Tex.

KANSAS HAS SHELTERBELT PICNIC, TOO

Five years ago last spring a brand-new governmental outfit, calling itself the Plains Shelterbelt Project, induced Mrs. Mamie Fay, a farm woman near Pratt, Kansas, to allow it to plant something called a shelterbelt on her farm. Mrs. Fay admits that she had some misgivings about the proposition at the time. The idea of anybody growing such a belt of trees where the good Lord had ordained grass to grow, seemed a bit far-fetched to her.

As the summers came and went, she not only lost her doubts about the practicability and advantages of shelterbelt growing, but became an active missionary in the cause. This summer she decided that something ought to be done toward letting more people know about the program, and being a farm woman she naturally hit upon the idea of a grand picnic in the belt. An untiring worker herself, she soon got everybody in the vicinity to working on the project, including the local Forest Officers, with the result that on August 29 some 1200 people from 20 counties fore-gathered in her shelterbelt, or rather in her oldest shelterbelt - she has more than one now - and had a gala time eating lunch, listening to speech-making, and touring the nearby vicinity to see other belts. Dr. H. N. Wheeler, chief lecturer from the Washington Office, was on hand to give a talk both in the afternoon and again that night in Pratt, and local celebrities including the foresters, also talked.

The Pratt Daily Tribune put out a special shelterbelt picnic edition devoted entirely to the picnic and the shelterbelt planting program, the advertisers in it "saluting" Mrs. Fay, or the Project, or both. "The longest table in the world" was erected to seat the guests. It was a quarter of a mile long and was constructed of lumber, the use of which was donated by a local lumber yard. Mrs. Fay furnished watermelons for the crowd, though it is said that she had to go outside her own farm to get enough to supply the occasion.

Kansas papers over most of the State gave the affair quite a lot of publicity. As might have been expected, the Paul Bunyan-esque character of the "longest table" intrigued distant editors who might not otherwise have been particularly interested in the picnic as such.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

THIS FARMER LIKES HIS HONEYLOCUST THORNY

When a man objects to thorny Honeylocust, that is not news, but when a cooperater comes to the District Office and requests that his cottonwoods as well as any other post rows be replaced with thorny Honeylocust, with emphasis on the "thorny," that's news.

Mr. Jess Kennison of Reydon, Oklahoma, was in Elk City Saturday, September 7, and mentioned the fact that his cottonwoods were going out, and he was very much disturbed over this fact, stating that he had always been of the opinion that once a cottonwood took root, it was there until it died of old age, and that he was very much elated when we planted considerable cottonwood on his farm.

He stated that he was also well pleased when we planted thorny Honeylocust on his farm. He said that he originated from the eastern part of the United States where thorny Honeylocust was one of the main post species, and

that he had cut for posts locusts that were so thorny it was necessary that he trim the thorns off before he could work the body cuts into posts. He said that thorny Honeylocust was comparable to the best post species with which he was familiar, and that he would like to have, if at all possible, his cottonwoods replaced with that species, "the thornier, -- the better," as he had observed that the rabbits did not attack the thorny locust in the same manner that they did the thornless.

I explained to him that it was somewhat doubtful if we could get the extremely thorny locust for his planting, as we were endeavoring to eliminate the thorny variety of this species, but we could replace some of the planting with Honeylocust. I explained to him that Mr. Asp or I would contact him, and work out on the ground the rehabilitation of his belt to our very best ability, and that as Honeylocust was one of the hardiest species that we can plant in western Oklahoma, I saw no reason why we could not give him some additional Honeylocust. It is doubtful if we can replace the cottonwood in its entirety with this species due to the fact that he already has considerable locust planted.

Mr. Kennison was very well pleased with his 1938 planting, even though he has come to the conclusion that five miles of standard ten-row shelterbelts are more trees than one man should attempt to tend at one time, and we worked out an agreement whereby a portion of these plantings would be delayed until such time as the part that we retained has attained such growth that its care and maintenance will not be so great.

- James W. Kyle, Okla.

"HUTCH" THROWS ANOTHER PARTY

Somewhat belatedly, and with apologies to North Dakota, we quote the following from a letter by State Director Cobb describing the annual Forest Service picnic at the Enderlin Nursery and Community Forest:

"On Sunday, June 30, the Enderlin Community Forest Association held its third annual Forest Service picnic.

"Thomas C. Hutchinson (Forest Service Nurseryman) served as Master of Ceremonies for the speaking program which followed a band concert presented by the Enderlin High School Band. Speakers included John D. Gray, State Treasurer; Martin Connolly of the Greater North Dakota Association; Mike Flatt, a State Representative and a shelterbelt cooperator; and K. W. Taylor of this office.

"Between seven hundred and a thousand persons attended the speaking program, and Taylor reports that all speakers confined the essential part of their talks to the work of the Forest Service. We consider this something of a gain in our PR relationships since at the previous picnics the speeches covered everything from politics to farm economics."

(Comment: The cooperative relationship which exists between the Forest Service and the little town of Enderlin is one of the bright spots in the history of this Project. The Enderlin Nursery was one of our original 1935 locations, in fact the only one now in existence. It was located on a farm, part of which

was in a wooded creek bottom, our lease covering the cultivated portion. In 1938 the tract got into litigation, and because of this and in the interest of economy, it looked as though we would have to move out. But the town would not have it so. Some of its citizens raised the money to buy the farm, whereupon use of the nursery part was donated to us and the balance created the "Enderlin Community Forest." The town is as proud of the set-up as a hen with new chicks, and each year solicits Hutchinson's help in putting on a gala celebration at the nursery. On his part, Hutchinson has performed miracles in making what was originally a pretty run-down-at-the-heel sort of place into a very attractive lay-out, and needless to say, he stands ace high with the community. - E.L.P.)

POSTERS CREATE INTEREST

I agree with Lloyd Houston, Jr. Clerk-Stenographer, Hutchinson, Kansas, when he writes that we Jr. Clerk-Stenographers do not know enough about Timber Management to argue with anyone about a better way to grow trees; neither are we experts on Fiscal Control, therefore, cannot be called "Fiscal Hounds." Lloyd further thinks that we are certain to know at least "something" which might be worth printing. This, I believe, gives me a chance to write about a matter in which I am very much interested.

Before I began working on the Prairie States Forestry Project, I was engaged in poster designing and lettering for commercial purposes. I think it is generally agreed that this type of advertising has proved to be of great value as a means of getting the merchant's goods before the public. Posters and window cards are used extensively by all leading business concerns.

It occurred to us that if these posters and window cards are so successful in commercial lines, they should also be a valuable means of informing the general public about our shelterbelt program. After all, our job is to acquaint the farmer with our program, and get him interested enough to "want" a shelterbelt and sign on the dotted line. We are "selling" shelterbelts; therefore, we must "advertise" shelterbelts.

Of course, fair exhibits have been used for this purpose in all the states, and with good results. However, the "poster advertising" campaign in the Kingman District is being conducted in a somewhat different way. Merchants are solicited for space in one of their windows, and after obtaining the necessary window space, poster cards are designed and lettered with appropriate copy concerning the various activities of the PSFP. These cards are then displayed by the local merchants in their store windows. The cards are placed in the windows of stores where farmers gather on Saturdays and other days, and where they will attract the most attention.

The business men of Kingman are cooperating in every way possible, and furnish space gladly. In fact, we placed a card in a certain location, and a few days later a merchant across the street called us and asked if we could let him have one of a similar nature for his store.

Timely topics are used on our posters. During cultivation season we use copy urging farmers to cultivate their shelterbelts, and giving the reasons why their belts should be kept clean. Before planting season, we advertise

the value of trees as a windbreak, and show why the farmer should have a shelterbelt on his farm. Rodent control work is stressed in all seasons, and cards of a general nature are also used from time to time.

We feel that we have had very good results with this type of advertising. Several actual instances have come to our attention in this respect. We know our cards are being noticed and read. Even one of the local newspapers gave us a good write-up in its editorial section, and ended the article with the words which were taken from one of our cards down town -- "Yes, watch the shelterbelts grow."

Our experiments in this type of I & E activity on the Kingman District have opened new pathways of approach to the general public. It is not only the man who is a prospective shelterbelt owner who needs to understand our program, but the entire public, -- men, women, and children. A wife, son or daughter, or friend of some landowner, once attracted by a PSFP display or poster may, indirectly, awaken an interest in the program through a discussion of what was observed. This same landowner, if directly approached on the subject of a shelterbelt planting, might turn it down without even considering its merits. The purpose of the I & E program is to awaken the farmer's interest in shelterbelts and cause him to "want" one on his farm. When a farmer steps into the Forest Service office and says, "Could I get a shelterbelt on my farm?" he is putting into action the desire which was created through the various I & E activities, of which, we believe, exhibits and posters are a very important part.

-Herbert Nimrod, Kans.

NURSERYMEN MEET AT FREMONT

The second meeting of PSFP nurserymen was held at Fremont, Nebraska, September 3 to 7. The keynote of the meeting as expressed by Dave Olson was to get the fellows off to an even start on conifer nursery practices as developed by the Forest Service over a 40-year period. Unlike deciduous practices where this Project has largely had to develop its own technique for mass production, the Forest Service Regions have been the recognized leaders in mass conifer production and this Project can well afford to adopt those Regional conifer practices that fit our conditions rather than starting from scratch.

The program for the meeting was made up of field demonstrations of seeding, transplanting, and distribution equipment which was combined with conference discussions of related technical practices. New developments in broadleaf nursery practices and seed handling were likewise covered briefly. Operational functions were discussed the last day of the meeting.

It is expected that this meeting will have a far-reaching effect on improving our conifer practices. Outstanding trends which are expected to show up is the adoption of the Uni-carrier as the foundation implement for practically all conifer field operations and the wider use of crates for field distribution of conifer planting stock.

- H. E. Engstrom, R.O.

France lost 1,625,000 acres of forests in the World War.

- Conservation

BETTER THAN IVORY SOAP

There has been quite a lot of competitive boasting concerning growth and survivals in previous issues of PLAINS FORESTER. Most of this seems to come from the Southern States. Here is one from the North.

A survival count on the Peter Sebens' shelterbelt south of Milnor, North Dakota, on August 14, shows only one dead Red cedar out of 420 plants. This gives a survival of 99.76%, a trifle higher than the purity of Ivory soap.

We do not wish to incite any "feuding" and if any of the other states can beat this survival, we prefer not to hear from them. How otherwise can we retain that smug feeling that we have something a little better?

We might add that there has been very good moisture on this site for the past three years. Also that cedar was first planted in this belt in 1939 and 70 replacements made in 1940.

- E. D. Dressel, N. Dak.

HE INVESTS IN HIS OWN FARM

"I haven't been saving up a lot of money, but I've been doing some improving around here," says Arthur W. Ramming, farmer of Wichita County, Texas, according to "Farmer-Stockman." "A lot of the \$2,300 that I got from my cotton, wool, and livestock last year went for improvements, where it should."

Last year Ramming repaired and painted his farm, put up a new windmill, planted 24 fruit trees, insulated the kitchen, added to his shorthorn herd, did some terracing, and last but by no means least - took on one mile of shelterbelt. This year he has begun the contour furrowing of 200 acres of pasture, the sheep and hog fencing of a pasture, the finishing of his bathroom, and building a foundation under his barn.

"This costs us a little money, but it's the best way to invest money that I know of. By putting it into the farm we are living on, we'll get it all back. We haven't been farming for long, but we're fixing to stay farming for a long time."

What a sound, sensible, progressive program. Here is a fellow who is going to get a lot of fun out of farming, to say nothing of the satisfaction of knowing that he is going to hand down to posterity a productive piece of land instead of a junk pile.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

THE WALKING SHELTERBELT

We all have our troubles with Problem Belts and Problem Cooperators, and occasionally we run across a belt which has been plowed under. Not so long ago, however, our State Director ran across a cooperator who moved approximately 1/8 mile of 5-row belt just 30 feet after it was a year old!

Mr. J. H. MacDougal, of Wilbarger county, Texas, did the job, and the trees when last seen were coming along in good shape. His formula was excellent cultivation and frequent watering following some backbreaking toil. The reason for the move was to provide more farmstead space.

- Hy Goldberg, Tex.

DEMOCRATIC VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE INSPECTS SHELTERBELTS

Henry A. Wallace, during his recent speaking tour through Nebraska, honored the Columbus District by inspecting a few of its plantings. This writer had the pleasure of accompanying Mr. Wallace across the District. A side tour was made through a small concentration area which afforded an opportunity to visualize an area with complete protection. Mr. Wallace devoted several minutes of his talk made in Columbus to the shelterbelt program.

- F. W. Hougland, Nebr.

IS THERE A BURBANK IN OUR MIDST?

Ever since Darwin formulated his theory of evolution, workers in biological fields have been hastening this natural process towards some desirable end. Perhaps the best results of this process can be seen in fruits and vegetables. In a few hundred years corn was developed from small, uneven ears to the large well-formed, 22-row ears of ten times the original size. The best apples 4000 years ago were perhaps the small, sour, seedy fruit that can still be found on wild, thorny trees.

Improvement in fruit was not always a gradual year-by-year change, but more often it was a sudden occurrence in the life of a species. The concord grape was discovered in this manner, one vine that differed from all the rest.

Of the thousands of trees that are being planted on shelterbelts cannot a sprout be found that will be more suitable and desirable than any tree of the same species now grown?

One cooperator in Reno County, Kansas, pointed out a healthier tree from a quarter mile row of mulberry trees and said, "That tree is the only one that the grasshoppers didn't touch; all the others were defoliated completely." Should grasshopper plagues occur more often in the future, this tree may become invaluable.

In a 1939 belt a few miles away there is a single Osageorange sprout six feet tall growing in a perfectly vertical position. It is sturdy and wind-resistant, as well as the tallest tree in the row despite the fact that it had to bud out from below a rabbit-girdled original stem. The remaining trees are all shrubs with stems in all directions. We could use a variety of Osageorange that produced straight stems with a minimum amount of lateral branching. In the Chinese elm row of a 1940 belt the trees are uniformly small, averaging two feet high, but there is one tree which is by far the largest and best formed tree in the row. It has a straight stem with a well defined leader, and reaches five feet. This tree has the potential of a valuable seed bearer.

Perhaps among the thousands of apricot seedlings that are being planted into shelterbelts some cooperator will discover a variety that will yield fruit that is superior to any now existent. Would that be good advertising? Well, the word "shelterbelt" would be used in every description of the new fruit for years to come.

A horticultural authority once quoted that the chances for a seedling to be superior to the parent is 1 in 10,000. No wonder better varieties are so rarely discovered. But as we continue planting good stock let us persist in our search for something even better.

- Frank L. Dolence, Kans.

GRAPE AND SHELTERBELT HOE

The John Deere Plow Company has given the name "Grape and Shelterbelt Hoe" to the improved model of what was known as the "Grape and Berry Hoe," and which was once used only in the vineyard country of the East. A pamphlet now being distributed by the manufacturer is entitled "Directions for Setting Up John Deere Grape and Shelter Belt Hoe."

There is no doubt that the Grape and Shelterbelt Hoe deserves its name. The improvements which differentiate it from the old Grape and Berry Hoe have resulted from experience gained by using the old style hoes in our own shelterbelts. Indeed, it is safe to say that the manufacturer would not now be introducing the tool through his dealers in this part of the country, if there were no shelterbelts.

- M. R. Stuart, R.O.

SO WE HAD A PICNIC

One evening this spring, on returning home after one of the several twilight cultivation meetings held in the Subdistrict, my wife, in asking about the results of the meeting, made the comment that women played an important role in this tree program of ours and were responsible for many miles of plantings, and, this being the case, why not have a meeting that the women folk could attend, possibly a picnic.

It clicked! I could see no disadvantages and the advantages were apparent. News releases could be used to a great extent to play up the proposed picnic (this would provide another source for paper material) and it pays to advertise. It would bring the farmers' families together in a social way. It would also be a change for the men working for us, give us something to talk about, and a chance to break open for negotiations.

Six good cooperators were contacted. They all were in favor of a get-together so one evening we met and made plans. The cooperators were unable to help much so the work of assembling, planning and organizing was left to us. We worked, thought, and worried, and now that it is over, we can tell you the results.

September 15, 12:00 noon, family style picnic in Pawnee Park. Good eats and how! We could see fried chicken all over the place. After properly doing away with the food, our program started.

Secretary Weerts, of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, was master of ceremonies. The first talk was given by a shelterbelt owner on "Farmers and Trees"; next, one of our County Agents spoke on "Township Tree Committees"; and last, John L. Emerson, State Director, gave a well accepted speech on "History of Nebraska Shelterbelts."

Local talent gave an entertaining hour after which the farmers played us in soft ball. (They beat us 23 to 9.) Several horseshoe courts were erected and the shoes were clicking merrily until 7:00 P.M. that evening.

A cultivation equipment display of some 25 implements was given a thorough once-over by most every one there and many private discussions arose concerning them. (Incidentally, we got motion pictures of all this equipment

to add to 160' of film already made.) A float which consisted of a shelterbelt in miniature and a rodent control display filled the bill.

Two concessions sold soft drinks, profits of which were to be divided equally among the Township Tree Committees.

Five hundred people were at the picnic. Everyone seemed to have a good time and are already asking "When will it be held next year?"

We think an annual subdistrict picnic can develop into great proportions. We believe this one will pay us materially in more miles, better cultivation, and more cooperation. We only live once, so why not combine pleasure with business once in a while?

- Elbert E. Evans, Nebr.

WHY USE SHINGLETOW IN PLANTING BOXES

Because of limited "Other" money the Forest Service has done considerable pinching of pennies in buying all materials, including shingletow. The value of shingletow, or other materials to serve the same purpose, is one of much importance in keeping our stock from drying out or spoiling from the time it is dug at the nursery until it is planted in a shelterbelt. Since the shingletow situation seems to be getting more and more desperate until this year it looks as though we will have to use donated straw, I believe that information regarding the experimental work done in the use of burlap in place of shingletow or straw in our planting boxes should be passed on to other parts of the Project in order that they may use it if similar economic conditions exist in their States.

Last planting season in the Hinton Subdistrict burlap blankets were substituted for shingletow to cover trees in the planting boxes on the trucks. These blankets were made out of three thicknesses of burlap about a foot longer than the planting boxes and the width of a burlap sack. This was quilted together with lath yarn.

It was found that this method of covering trees had many advantages over shingletow, the following being noted:

1. The trees in the boxes were located easily by the tree tender without the necessity of digging around to locate the desired species--just fold back the burlap blanket and all are in plain sight.

2. The blanket can be soaked in water barrel while men are loading trees, and the trees covered immediately. During the day the burlap can be kept moist by sprinkling from a bucket, thus avoiding all surplus water in planting boxes.

3. The only shingletow used is a thin layer in the bottom of the box, put in fresh each week. When the trees are covered with shingletow it becomes mixed with dirt and packs in the bottom of the box. Each day the trees are covered with fresh shingletow and before the week is over the box is half full of dirt and shingletow unless boxes are cleaned frequently. The small amount used in the bottom of the box can be removed once a week with very little waste.

The use of burlap in covering seedlings was tried on one truck first and a careful check made of the stock during the day. It was found that even on the hottest days the stock in the boxes remained in as moist a condition as stock in the boxes where shingletow was used, and it was much easier to keep the boxes clean. After it was seen how well this worked both of the trucks here were so equipped, and the survival will bear out the fact that this method had no harmful effects on the stock.

- Maurice C. Yearsley, Okla.

WEDDING BELLS AT GRAND ISLAND

Geraldine Cornett, who has been with the Project as stenographer since 1935, was married on August 29 to William Klas, of Hastings. Jerry and Bill are spending their honeymoon in the Black Hills.

* * *

Harold Cramer, handsome Senior Clerk in the State Office, decided to test out the old gag that "Two can live cheaper than one," on September 1. He was married that evening to Dorothy Kroyer of this City, and left at once to spend a week's "non-scheduled work time" in the Ozarks.

Congratulations and good luck!

- R. W. Smith, Nebr.

WE SAY AU REVOIR

It's lonesome in Fiscal Control these days with Olive Peterson and Mark Thomas both gone.

Olive is in Washington on detail. She writes that the Fred Stells took her under their wing until she became settled. Now that she's learned all over again how to dodge traffic and squeeze in elevators, she's doing all right, and finds Washington even more thrilling than the first time she was there.

Mark Thomas - "Tommy" to us, and "Hap" to his Lincoln friends outside the office has been transferred to the Kansas State Office. We hope he and Grace and little "Tommy" will be very happy in their new location. The baby seems like a part of our organization for we've watched him grow, step by step, and we want him to drop in on us with his father and mother whenever they make a trip to Lincoln.

W.O. VISITORS

Visitors to the Project from the Washington Office during the past month were Lyall Peterson, of the Division of Forest Land Planning; Perry Thompson, Chief of Personnel Management; and Peter Keplinger, Staff Assistant in Administrative Management. Lyall Peterson was guest at a Lincoln U.S.D.A. Club luncheon, where he made a talk, and "Kep" had lunch with a group of kindred spirits from other Governmental agencies in town. He also made a one-day trip into the Nebraska planting area and saw the shelterbelts for the first time since 1935. Perry didn't stay long enough to eat - in fact, the echo of his "Hello, folks" was still lurking in the corridors as he shot downstairs on his way elsewhere. He was just passing through on his way East.